has to be resolved between them, the cooperative and the financial institutions.

Increase in price of PDS levy sugar to meet operational cost of FCI

927. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not for the past three to four years reimbursed the increased operational costs of the FCI in the distribution of levy sugar amounting to Rs. 400 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay;

(c) whether the recent increase of PDS levy sugar from Rs. 9.05 per Kg. to Rs. 10.50 per Kg. was made to meet operational cost of the FCI; and

(d) if so, whether Government feel justified in increasing the price of levy sugar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Amounts have been released to the FCI as and when demanded by them.

(c) and (d) The retail issue price of levy sugar supplied through Public Distribution System (PDS) has been revised from 9.05 per Kg. to Rs. 10.50 per Kg. w.e.f. 10.2.97. This upward revision had become overdue on account of the fact that the last revision had taken place in February, 94 and thereafter, the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane had been revised upwards during the 3 successive sugar seasons.

वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान आयात किए गए गेहूं की मात्रा

928. **प्रो. विषय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान भारत द्वारा कितने गेहूं का आयात किया गया है;

(ख) यह गेहूं किस मूल्य पर खरीदा गया है;

(ग) भारत में इस गेहूं की पहुंच लागत कितनी है; और

(घ) इस वर्ष गेहूं का खरीदा मूल्य कितना था?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक आपूर्ती, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव) : (क) सरकार ने गेहूं की घरेलू उपलब्धता में वृद्धि करने के लिए 2 मिलियन टन तक गेहूं आयात करने का निर्णय लिया है।

(ख) 14.2.1997 को स्थिति के अनुसार पहले से ही आयात के लिए ठेका की गई मात्रा और किए गए ठेके की दर नीचे जी गई है;-

देश	मात्रा (लाख टन)	दर अमीरीकी डालर प्रति टन
आस्ट्रेलिया	10.00	148.00 जहाज तक निष्प्रभार
आस्ट्रेलिया	0.25	156.00 जहाज तक निष्प्रभार
कनाडा	2.50	152.50 जहाज तक निष्प्रभार
अर्जेन्टीना	1.00	173.00 जहाज तक निष्प्रभार

(ग) भारतीय पत्तनों पर गेंहूं की औसत "सी. एंड एफ." लागत लगभग 6227 रुपये प्रति टन बैठती है।

(घ) 1996-97 के दौरान वसूली मूल्य 380 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल है। आगामी रखी विपणन मौसम 1997-98 के लिए वसूली मूल्य 415 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया गया है।

Import of Wheat From Canada

929. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government imported 1.25 million tonnes of wheat from Canada in the month of January, 1997;

(b) if so, whether any pre-shipment inspection was carried out before import and the quality of the wheat was found to be of standard;

(c) whether the clearance of the Cabinet and the Planning Commission was obtained before import of the wheat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Government after considering relevant factors have decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during

1996-97 to augment availability in the country. The State Trading Corporation of India has, upto 14.2.97, finalised contracts for purchase of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat. This includes contracts for import of 2.50 lakh tonnes from Canada. Adequate precautions have been taken to ensure that the imported wheat conforms to the parameters prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary and quarantine norms laid down by the Govemment of India. As per the terms of the contracts the wheat to be shipped has to undergo pre-shipment quality inspection by the Govemment agencies in Canada & Australia and by internationally reputed quality surveyors in the case of Argentina.

Procurement Prices of Food-grains for Current Year

930. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement price of wheat, rice and other foodgrains have been fixed for the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Procurement prices of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains fixed for the current 1296-97 Rabi/Kharif Marketing Season are as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Commodity	Procurement Price
Wheat	380.00
Paddy	
Common	380.00
Fine	395.00
Superfine	415.00
Coarsegrains	
Jowar, Ragi and Bajra	310.00
Maize	320.00
Barley	295.00

Procurement prices of wheat and barley for the forthcoming 1997-98 Rabi Marketing Season have also been fixed at Rs. 415.00 and Rs. 305.00 per quintal respectively.

Government's Policy Putting Sugar Industry in Loss

931. SHRI V. NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy adopted by Govemment towards sugar units by giving more concession to new sugar industries is putting the whole sugar industry in loss; and

(b) if so, the reason for Government's proposal to apply uniform sugar policy for new and old sugar industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The incentives in the form of additional free sale sugar quota for new sugar factories and expansion projects have been in vogue since the Sampath Committee recommendations in 1975. Incentive schemes are formulated on the basis of recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices in order to make projects feasible.

Canadian Shipment of Wheat to India

932. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge Canadian shipment of wheat to India has been held up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of wheat being imported from Canada along with value thereof;

(d) whether India has signed wheat import deals with any other country, if so, the details in this regad; and

(e) the total wheat to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shipments of Canadian wheat have